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NAPOLEON

THE RETURN FROM ST. HELENA

W·H·P PHYFE

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1840, [illegible]
His [illegible]
[illegible]

WITH E[illegible]

The Last Days of Napoleon, by Vela.

First exhibited at the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1867.
Purchased by the French Government, and now in the
Musée National of Versailles.

Author of "5000 [illegible]

Mispronounc[illegible]

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popular in story, and gained [illegible] such [illegible]
tion."—*Second Funeral of Napoleon*, [illegible]

G. P. PUT[illegible]SONS
NEW YORK [illegible]ON
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1903

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NAPOLEON

THE RETURN FROM SAINT HELENA

An Account of the Removal of the Emperor's Remains from Saint Helena to France in 1840, together with a Description of His Tomb in the Hôtel des Invalides in Paris

WITH EIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS

BY

WILLIAM HENRY P. PHYFE

Author of "5000 Facts and Fancies"; "10000 Words Often Mispronounced"; etc., etc.

"Something great and good must have been in this man, something loving and kindly, that has kept his name so cherished in the popular memory, and gained him such lasting reverence and affection."—*Second Funeral of Napoleon* (THACKERAY)

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
NEW YORK AND LONDON
The Knickerbocker Press
1907

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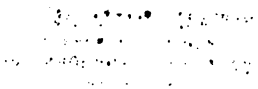

To

EMMA B. RAYMOND

with whom I visited the Hôtel des Invalides

and

The Crypt of Napoleon's Tomb

I dedicate this little volume
in appreciation of her sympathetic and intelligent
companionship on that interesting occasion.

PREFACE

IT was my good fortune, while in Paris some months ago, to gain admission to the crypt of Napoleon's Tomb in the Hôtel des Invalides. This privilege was accorded me by the Governor of the Institution, at the request of His Excellency Robert S. McCormick, at that time United States Ambassador to France. I was informed by M. le Capitaine Adjutant-Major Alfred Méry, who kindly acted as my conductor and guide on that occasion, that the crypt had not been opened for inspection since the visit of His Majesty Victor Emmanuel III., King of Italy, to Paris in 1903.

I have thought that an account of this visit might prove interesting to the public; since, to my knowledge, no other American has described the crypt from personal observation. As a fitting prelude, I have given a detailed account of the ceremonies incident to the removal of Napoleon's remains to France and their entombment in the Hôtel des Invalides.

W. H. P. P.

New York, April 14th, 1907.

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(First exhibited at the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1867. Purchased by the French Government, and now in the Musée National of Versailles.)

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(The Emperor at the Height of his Power.)

Je désire que mes cendres reposent sur les bords de la Seine au milieu de ce peuple Français que j'ai tant aimé.

Testament de Napoléon.

NAPOLEON

THE RETURN FROM SAINT HELENA

IT was Napoleon's dying wish, as recorded in his last will and testament at Saint Helena, that his ashes might repose upon the banks of the Seine in the midst of the French people whom he had loved so well.

This desire found a ready response in the hearts of the French nation and as early as 1830—two months after the accession of Louis Philippe—a petition was presented to the Chamber of Deputies requesting that a formal demand be made upon Great Britain for the restoration of the Emperor's remains to

France. On that occasion, M. de Montigny said:

"Napoleon re-established order and tranquillity in our country. He led our armies to victory. His sublime genius put an end to anarchy. His military glory made the French name respected throughout the world, and his name will ever be pronounced with emotion and veneration."

Similar requests were preferred from time to time, but it was not until 1840 that the Government—deferring to the wishes of the French people—finally resolved to apply for the restoration of the body of Napoleon. On the fifth of May of that year—the nineteenth anniversary of the Emperor's death—M. Adolphe Thiers, then Premier of France, made formal application to the British Government, through M. Guizot, the

French Ambassador, in the following terms:

"The undersigned, Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty, the King of the French, has the honor, conformably to instructions received from his Government, to inform His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, that the King ardently desires that the mortal remains of Napoleon may be deposited in a tomb in France, in the country which he defended and rendered illustrious, and which proudly preserves the ashes of thousands of his companions-in-arms, officers and soldiers devoted with him to the service of their country. The undersigned is convinced that Her Britannic Majesty's Government will

only see in this desire of His Majesty the King of the French a just and pious feeling, and will give the orders necessary to the removal of any obstacle to the transfer of Napoleon's remains from Saint Helena to France."

It is said that the Duke of Wellington advised the retention of the body, fearing that its surrender might be ascribed to fear; but fortunately more generous counsels prevailed. Accordingly, on the ninth of May, Lord Palmerston returned a courteous answer, which placed the remains of Napoleon at the disposal of France,—concluding with the following words: "The Government of Her Britannic Majesty hopes that the promptness of its answer may be considered in France as a proof of its desire to blot out the last trace of those national animosities which, dur-

ing the life of the Emperor, armed England and France against each other. Her Majesty's Government hopes that if such sentiments survive anywhere they may be buried in the tomb about to receive the remains of Napoleon."

On the twelfth of May, the Minister of the Interior, M. Charles de Rémusat (son of the author of the noted *Memoirs*), communicated to the Chamber of Deputies, amid tumultuous applause, the resolve of the French Government to restore the remains of the Emperor to France.

"Gentlemen," he said, "the King has ordered His Royal Highness the Prince de Joinville to proceed with his frigate to the island of Saint Helena, to receive the mortal remains of the Emperor Napoleon. We come to ask of you the means to receive them

Longwood, Napoleon's Residence at Saint Helena.

Longwood, Napoleon's Residence at Saint Helena.

worthily upon the soil of France, and to erect for Napoleon his last tomb. The Government, anxious to accomplish a great national duty, has addressed itself to England. It has demanded of her the precious deposit which fortune has surrendered into her hands. The frigate charged with the mortal remains of Napoleon will present itself, on its return, at the mouth of the Seine. Another vessel will convey them to Paris. They will be deposited in the Invalides. A solemn ceremony, a grand religious and military pomp, will inaugurate the tomb which is to receive them forever. It is important, gentlemen, to the majesty of such a commemoration, that this august sepulture should not be in a public place, in the midst of a noisy and inattentive crowd. It is proper that it should be in a silent

and sacred spot, which can be visited with awe by those who respect glory and genius, grandeur and misfortune. He was Emperor and King. He was the legitimate sovereign of our country. With such a title, he could be interred at St. Denis. But Napoleon must not have the ordinary sepulture of Kings. He must still reign and command in the building in which the soldiers of the country repose, and to which all who may be called upon to defend it will go to draw their inspirations. His sword will be placed upon his tomb. Under the dome, in the midst of the temple consecrated by religion to the God of armies, art will raise a tomb worthy, if possible, of the name which is to be engraven upon it. This monument must be of simple beauty but of noble form, and have that aspect of solidity

and firmness which appears to defy the action of time. The monument of Napoleon must be as imperishable as his fame. Henceforward, France, and France alone, will possess all that remains of Napoleon. His tomb, like his renown, will belong only to his country."

At the conclusion of this eloquent address the sum of one million francs was voted for the purpose, and His Royal Highness the Prince de Joinville, third son of Louis Philippe, already distinguished in the service of France, was placed in command of the expedition.

On the ninth of July the frigate *La Belle Poule* and the sloop-of-war *La Favorite* sailed from Toulon for the far-distant island of Saint Helena. They were accompanied as far as

Gibraltar by the steamships *Le Trident* and *L'Océan*. The Special Commission charged with the transfer of Napoleon's body comprised the Count de Rohan-Chabot (Commissary of the King), the Abbé Coquereau, Generals Bertrand and Gourgaud, M. Emmanuel de las Cases (son of the author of the *Memorial of Saint Helena*), Arthur Bertrand, Marchand, St. Denis, and Novarrez, valets of the Emperor, Pierron, his domestic officer, and Archambeau, his huntsman. All of the members of the Commission, with the exception of the two first named, shared Napoleon's exile at Saint Helena.

The vessels reached their destination on the eighth of October, and anchored in the harbor of Jamestown amid friendly salutes from the British batteries and the ships-of-war lying in the

roadstead. The fifteenth of October being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the arrival of Napoleon at Saint Helena, it was unanimously resolved to defer the disinterment of his remains until that day; meanwhile the French sailors were permitted to land and visit the grave of the Emperor and other spots rendered famous by association with his exile.

The grave of Napoleon, where he had so long slept in peace, was situated in the Valley of Silence, about a league from Longwood, his place of residence. It had been chosen for his last resting place by himself and occupied a secluded spot near a spring, whose pure water had often refreshed him during his captivity. The Emperor had frequently rested under the beautiful willows that overshadowed this fountain,

and during his last illness he spoke of it as of a personal friend in the following words: "If fate should determine that I shall recover, I would raise a monument on the spot where this water gushes out. I would crown the fountain in memory of the comfort which it has afforded me. . . . Let them bury me at the spot where this fine and refreshing water flows."

It was while Napoleon's remains still rested at Saint Helena that the poet Pierpont wrote the following lines:

"Here sleeps he now alone! Not one
Of all the kings whose crowns he gave
Bends o'er his dust; nor wife, nor son,
Has ever seen or sought his grave.

"Behind this sea-girt rock, the star
That led him on from crown to crown
Has sunk; and nations from afar
Gazed as it faded and went down.

"High is his couch; the ocean flood
Far, far below by storms is curled;
As round him heaved, while high he stood,
A stormy and unstable world.

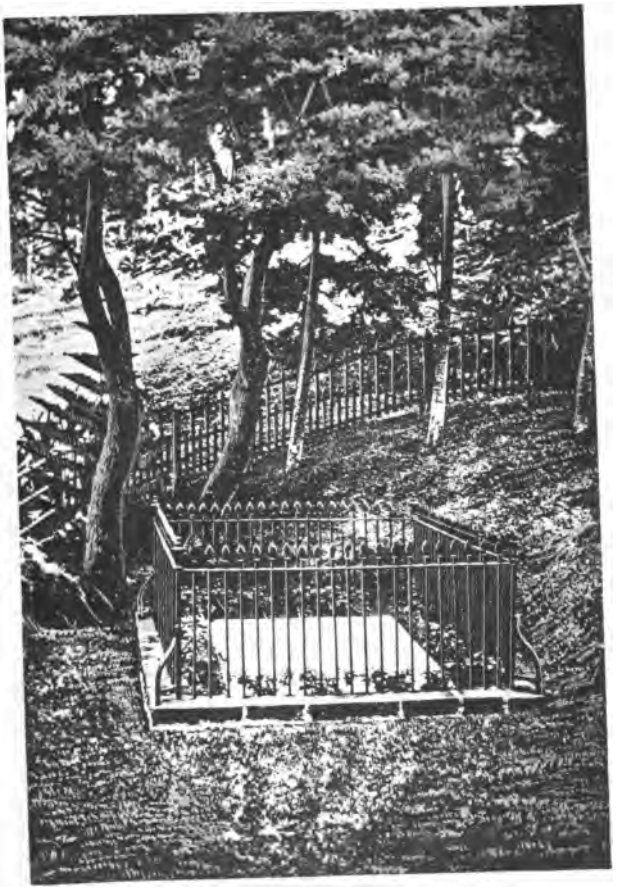
"Alone he sleeps! The mountain cloud
That night hangs round him, and the breath
Of morning scatters, is the shroud
That wraps the conqueror's clay in death.

"Pause here! The far-off world, at last,
Breathes free; the hand that shook its thrones,
And to the earth its mitres cast,
Lies powerless now beneath these stones.

"Hark! comes there from the Pyramids,
And from Siberian wastes of snow,
And Europe's hills, a voice that bids
The world he awed to mourn him? No.

"The only, the perpetual dirge
That 's heard there, is the sea-bird's cry,
The mournful murmur of the surge,
The cloud's deep voice, the wind's low sigh."

Napoleon's Grave at Saint Helena.



Precisely at one o'clock in the morning of the fifteenth of October, the work of exhumation was begun by the British Royal Engineers, under the direction of General Middlemore, Governor of Saint Helena, and in the presence of the English and French commissioners. The iron railing enclosing the grave was first removed, and then the six-inch stone slab covering it. This gave access to a stone vault fourteen feet deep, six feet wide, and ten feet long, partially filled with earth, beneath which had been placed a layer of ordinary cement. On removing this a layer of heavy stones bound by iron clamps was encountered, whose removal necessitated the labor of five hours. Under this was disclosed the lid of the stone sarcophagus that enclosed the coffins. This sarcophagus was carefully raised

from the grave by means of a crane, and conveyed by the soldiers of the Ninety-First Regiment to a tent near at hand, the Abbé Coquereau meanwhile reading the Roman Catholic service for the dead. Amid profound silence the four enclosed coffins of mahogany, lead, mahogany, and tin were successively opened, the white satin veil covering the remains was reverently raised, and the body of Napoleon was disclosed to view. Although more than nineteen years had elapsed since their interment, the remains were found to be in a remarkable state of preservation. "Some of the eyelashes still remained. The cheeks were a little swollen; the beard had grown after death, as had the nails of the fingers and toes. The hands had preserved the colors of life; a burst boot had al-

lowed the toes of one dull foot to escape. The nose alone had decayed, but only its lower part. The uniform of the Chasseurs of the Guard was easily recognizable, though the epaulets had lost their brightness, as had some of the small decorations placed on the breast. The two vases holding the heart and entrails were also found intact and perfectly preserved."[1] At this impressive sight all were visibly affected, and many burst into tears.

After an inspection lasting only two minutes, the coffins were closed, resoldered with care, and placed in a magnificent ebony sarcophagus (brought from France), which was protected by an oaken casket. This sarcophagus was the work of M. Baudoin, Director of Funeral Ceremonies in France. It

[1] Wouters's *Annales Napoléoniennes.*

was finely polished, and bore upon the top in letters of gold the single word

Napoléon

Within it had been placed a leaden coffin, upon which were engraved branches of laurel and arabesques in bas-relief, with the words NAPOLÉON, EMPEREUR ET ROI, MORT À SAINTE HÉLÈNE LE V MAI, MDCCCXXI. A magnificent violet-colored velvet pall, edged with ermine, studded with Napoleonic Bees, and adorned with the Imperial eagle and the letter **N** in silver brocade, had accompanied the sarcophagus from France. At half-past three in the afternoon, amid torrents of rain, the coffin was placed upon a funeral-car drawn by four horses, and over it was thrown the velvet pall,—the corners of which were held by Generals Bertrand

and Gourgaud, Arthur Bertrand and Marchand. As the solemn cortège, preceded by a detachment of the Ninety-First Regiment, with arms reversed, and followed by the military and civil officers and the Governor of the Island, began to move from the Valley of Silence towards the quay at Jamestown, the batteries of *La Belle Poule* and of the British garrison of Saint Helena opened fire with minute guns. The reverberations were echoed from peak to peak, and borne far out upon the wastes of the Atlantic to announce to the world that the great Napoleon had commenced his journey home.

When the funeral procession reached the quay at Jamestown it was met by His Highness the Prince de Joinville and his suite, all in deep mourning. The remains of Napoleon were then

formally surrendered to France by the Governor of Saint Helena in the name of the British Government. The coffin was thereupon enveloped in the protecting folds of the tricolor, the Prince meanwhile thanking the Governor in the name of France for all the courtesies shown him on that eventful occasion.

As soon as the remains of the Emperor were received by the representatives of France, the note of sorrow was changed to that of joy. Flags were unfurled, salutes were fired, cheers were given with a will, and the same honors were paid to the dead Napoleon as though he were still the living sovereign of France. The coffin was then conveyed in a cutter to *La Belle Poule* and placed upon the quarter-deck, where on the following day (the

sixteenth of October) solemn high-mass was celebrated by the Abbé Coquereau in the presence of the officers and crews of the French ships-of-war and of the merchantmen in the harbor. A beautiful flag, embroidered by the ladies of Saint Helena, in homage of Napoleon, was suspended above the coffin, upon which rested the pall, surmounted by the Imperial crown veiled with crape. A special guard of sixty men, commanded by the senior lieutenant of the frigate, did the honors of the occasion. After these impressive ceremonies, the coffin was lowered between decks and placed in the *chapelle ardente*, which had been specially prepared for its reception.

The vessels set sail on Sunday, October eighteenth, and made the voyage to France without event, save for the rumor of possible hostilities between

England and France over the interpretation of the Turkish-Egyptian treaty. The danger of capture being deemed imminent, His Highness the Prince de Joinville engaged his sailors in a solemn oath to sink the ship rather than allow Napoleon to fall a second time into the hands of the English. Fortunately the rumor proved to be without foundation.

The flotilla anchored in the roadstead of Cherbourg on the thirtieth of November, and entered the harbor on the second of December—the thirty-fifth anniversary of Napoleon's glorious victory of Austerlitz and the thirty-sixth anniversary of his coronation. Three ships-of-war at once surrounded *La Belle Poule*, while the batteries of Cherbourg and the vessels lying at anchor saluted with twenty-one guns each. On December eighth the re-

mains were transferred to the steamer *La Normandie*, amid the roar of a thousand guns, on which occasion the Mayor of Cherbourg placed upon the coffin a gold laurel wreath, in the name of his city. *La Normandie* then left for Havre, amid the roar of another thousand guns, and entered the Seine on the following day. At Val de la Haie, the coffin was again transferred to another vessel—*La Dorade*—in which it proceeded up the river to Courbevoie, four miles from Paris.

The passage of the funeral procession from Havre to Paris consumed five days. Everywhere along the route, which was thickly dotted with cities and villages, the popular demonstrations were most enthusiastic and sincere. At Rouen, half-way between Havre and Paris, the display was espe-

cially striking. The Mayor of the city, in anticipation of the arrival of the Emperor's remains, had issued the following proclamation:

"Fellow Citizens: After twenty-five years of exile in a foreign land, Napoleon is at last restored to us. A French prince, the worthy son of our Citizen King, brings back to France what remains of the great Emperor. In a few days these glorious ashes will rest in peace under the national safeguard of his glory and the remains of his invincible phalanxes. A few moments only are allowed to salute the coffin of the hero who caused the French name to be respected throughout the world. Let us employ them in solemnly manifesting the sympathies which are in the hearts of a population over whom the Emperor once extended his powerful

and protecting hand. Let us unite, with a religious feeling, in the triumphal funeral reserved to him by the city where his glory and genius are stamped with immortal grandeur."

The central arch of the suspension bridge spanning the river had been temporarily converted into an arch of triumph, and profusely decorated by the veterans of the Empire. As *La Dorade* passed under the bridge, these old soldiers of Napoleon showered flowers upon the coffin amid enthusiastic shouts of *Vive l'Empereur*. It is estimated that two hundred and fifty thousand persons were in and about the city of Rouen during the passage of the funeral cortège. Church bells pealed, bands played inspiriting airs, cannon were fired, and the tricolor floated from every steeple. So intense

was the desire to see that many waded far out into the river for a better view. Aged peasants were seen discharging antiquated firearms in salute, kneeling bareheaded on the river banks, or weeping in silence as the remains of their beloved hero passed by. Many of these were veterans of the Grand Army who had followed Napoleon in his victorious marches from the Pyramids to the Kremlin.

On the afternoon of the fourteenth of December the flotilla reached Courbevoie, and on the following morning the coffin was transferred on the shoulders of twenty-four seamen from *La Belle Poule* to a Grecian temple, where it lay in state for a few hours until placed upon the funeral-car destined to carry it to its final resting place in the Hôtel des Invalides. Sergeant Hubert was

one of the few non-commissioned officers permitted to land. For nineteen years this noble man had guarded the remains of Napoleon at Saint Helena—a self-imposed task—and it was hence deemed fitting that when the body of the great conqueror should first touch French soil this devoted attendant should be permitted to accompany it. Dressed in the uniform of a grenadier of the Imperial Guard, and wearing the decoration of the Legion of Honor, he proudly stepped on shore, where he was at once surrounded and cordially embraced by the commanding officers in the presence of the assembled multitude.

The funeral-car destined to convey the remains of Napoleon from Courbevoie to the Hôtel des Invalides was a magnificent structure of velvet and gold,

adorned with statues and flags. It was twenty-five feet long and nearly fifty feet high, and consisted of four parts—the base, the pedestal, the caryatides, and the cenotaph. This moving monument was drawn by sixteen black horses, harnessed four abreast. They were caparisoned in cloth of gold (so cut as to reveal only their hoofs), were adorned with white plumes, and were led by grooms dressed in the Imperial livery.

At eleven o'clock on the morning of December fifteenth the solemn procession began to move. The line of march extended from Courbevoie by way of the Barrière de Neuilly to the Arc de Triomphe, thence along the Champs Elysées to the Place and Pont de la Concorde, and by way of the river front to the Esplanade of the Hôtel des Inva-

lides. Although the weather was intensely cold, this distance of four miles was densely lined with spectators whose number is estimated at fully one million. It is said that at many places along the line the onlookers stood one hundred deep.

The route was embellished with decorations of every description. The Arc de Triomphe was crowned with a colossal gilded statue of Napoleon, who from his lofty height looked calmly down upon this final triumph of his marvellous career. The Avenue of the Champs Elysées, extending to the Place de la Concorde, was adorned with rostral columns surmounted by Imperial eagles, triumphal arches resplendent with the tricolor, gilded statues of colossal size, trophies of arms and bouquets of standards, urns aflame with

incense, Napoleonic Bees and letter N's, banners, wreaths, and shields bearing the names of glorious victories. The Pont de la Concorde was lined on both sides with statues, and flanked at each approach with columns adorned with flags and surmounted by Imperial eagles. From the gateway opening upon the Esplanade of the Hôtel des Invalides the line of march extended along an avenue lined on both sides with statues—thirty-two in number—representing the most illustrious sovereigns and soldiers of France.

The first part of the procession consisted of a striking military display, composed of the Gendarmerie of the Seine, the Municipal Foot and Horse Guards, battalions of infantry, squadrons of cavalry, and detachments of artillery. These were followed by

Marshal Gérard, commandant-in-chief, accompanied by the National Guards. Then came a carriage in which sat the Abbé Coquereau, almoner of the expedition, and his attendants. Next appeared the war-horse of Napoleon. The famous "Marengo" had long since passed away, but the bridle, saddle, and spurs were genuine. Then followed the Commission of Saint Helena, the Marshals of France, and the Eighty-Six Eagles, representing the eighty-six Departments of the Kingdom. His Royal Highness the Prince de Joinville and his staff preceded the funeral-car, which was guarded by five hundred seamen who had accompanied the remains of Napoleon from Saint Helena. Marshals Oudinot and Molitor, General Bertrand, and Admiral Roussin, all on horseback, held the cordons of the pall.

Cour d'Honneur et Hôtel des Invalides.

Cour d' Honneur of the Hôtel des Invalides.

The Prefects of the Seine and of Police, the civil and military officers of the Emperor's household, the deputies from Corsica (the birthplace of Napoleon), and detachments of infantry and cavalry closed the procession.

At two o'clock the funeral-car reached the gateway of the Hôtel des Invalides, where it was met by the Archbishop of Paris, attended by sixteen acolytes and accompanied by his bishops and clergy. There the coffin of Napoleon was placed upon the shoulders of thirty-two of the Emperor's Old Guard. Preceded by the Prince de Joinville and his suite, and accompanied by Generals Bertrand and Gourgaud, the remains were conveyed across the Esplanade and Cour d'Honneur of the Invalides in the presence of more than thirty-six thousand spectators

who, with one accord, rose and uncovered in homage to the great Napoleon. The coffin, covered with the velvet pall and surmounted by the Imperial crown, passed slowly up the aisle of the Church of the Invalides, to the sound of muffled drums and the reverberations of cannon.

Louis Philippe, surrounded by the royal family, the ministers, and the great dignitaries of the kingdom, descended from his throne and stood beneath the dome to receive the remains. At his side sat the aged Marshal Moncey, Governor of the Hôtel des Invalides and Napoleon's old companion-in-arms, who had prayed to live until that eventful day.

"Sire," said the Prince de Joinville, "I present to you the body of the Emperor Napoleon."

"I receive it in the name of France," responded the King.

Turning to Marshal Soult, who held a cushion on which reposed the sword of Austerlitz, and taking it from its resting place, His Majesty presented it to General Bertrand, saying: "General, I charge you to place this glorious sword of the Emperor upon his coffin."

The King then added: "General Gourgaud, place upon the coffin the hat of the Emperor."

The sovereign then returned to his throne, bowing as he passed to the assembled peers and deputies; and the coffin, after being sprinkled with holy water by both the Archbishop and the King, was placed upon the catafalque. A majestic funeral march was then celebrated and Mozart's sublime *Requiem*, the *Dies Iræ*, and the *De Profundis*

were rendered by three hundred musicians with a dignity worthy of the solemnity of the occasion. The ceremonies were then at an end, and the desire of the Emperor was at last attained. He reposed in majestic dignity on the banks of the Seine in the midst of the French people whom he had loved so well.

For eight days the coffin lay in state under the dome of the Hôtel des Invalides, and was viewed by thousands of spectators. On February sixth of the following year it was removed to the Chapel of Saint Jerome, where it remained until transferred to its present resting place in 1861. Upon the coffin rested the Imperial crown, the sword of Austerlitz, and the hat of Eylau, while above it were suspended the flags captured in the campaign of 1805.

Exterior of the Dome of the Hôtel des Invalides.

Exterior of the Dome of the Hôtel des Invalides.

The Dome of the Hôtel des Invalides, wherein repose the ashes of Napoleon, is distinct from the Church, which adjoins it on the north. It was erected by Mansard, early in the eighteenth century, to serve as a place of worship for the king and the royal family. It is a quadrangular structure—two hundred feet in breadth—surmounted by a lofty dome, partially gilded, which forms one of the landmarks of Paris. The façade is of the Doric and Corinthian orders, and is adorned with statues of Charlemagne and Louis IX.

On the left as we enter is the Chapel of Saint Jerome, which contains the sarcophagus of Jerome Napoleon, King of Westphalia and youngest brother of the Emperor. It was erected in 1862, and is surmounted by a bronze statue of the King. This chapel also contains two

smaller sarcophagi, in one of which repose the ashes of Jerome's eldest son, and in the other the heart of his second wife, Princess Catherine of Würtemberg. This chapel held the remains of Napoleon I. for twenty years,—from 1841 until 1861.

On the right of the entrance is the Chapel of Saint Augustine, where may be seen the marble sarcophagus that holds the ashes of Joseph Napoleon, King of Spain and eldest brother of the Emperor. Joseph died in Florence in 1844. His remains were brought to France by order of Napoleon III. in 1861, and buried in this chapel in 1862.

The Chapel of the Holy Virgin, adjoining on the north, is adorned with a superb marble monument, erected in 1808, in memory of Vauban, the distinguished military engineer of Louis XIV.

The Chapel of Saint Ambrose in the northeast angle of the church and that of Saint Gregory in the northwest were at one time set apart as the respective burial places of Louis Napoleon, King of Holland, and Lucien Bonaparte, Prince of Canino. Owing, however, to the deposition of Napoleon III. in 1870, the remains of these two brothers of the great Napoleon were never removed to Paris. It is well known that Napoleon III. constructed in the crypt of the Cathedral of Saint Denis a burial place for his dynasty, known as "Le Caveau Impérial." It is needless to say that it remains untenanted.

Between the Chapel of Saint Gregory and that of Saint Jerome is the Chapel of Saint Theresa, which contains the tomb of Marshal Turenne, the great captain in the service of Louis

XIV. It is constructed of marble, and represents the Marshal dying in the arms of Immortality, while Wisdom and Valor recline at his side. This monument originally stood in the Cathedral of Saint Denis,but was removed to the Hôtel des Invalides by order of Napoleon, when First Consul. When the royal tombs of Saint Denis were rifled by the rabble of Paris in 1793, the body of Turenne narrowly escaped destruction, and was saved only through the efforts of Desfontaines, the eminent botanist, who passed it off as a French mummy, worthy of preservation.

The Tomb of Napoleon, constructed by Visconti, occupies the centre of the church, immediately beneath the dome which Victor Hugo has aptly likened to a helmet suited to that giant's head.

Interior of the Dome of the Floral Hall
Gardens.

Interior of the Dome of the Hôtel des Invalides.

It is an open, circular crypt—twenty feet in depth and thirty-six feet in diameter—in the centre of which stands a massive sarcophagus enclosing the remains of the Emperor. This sarcophagus, which is thirteen feet in length, six and a half feet in width, and attains a height of fourteen and a half feet, is of red Finland granite. It weighs sixty-seven tons and is the gift of the Czar Nicholas I. of Russia. The interior is lined with marble from Corsica, the birthplace of Napoleon. The tomb proper consists of four parts—the receptacle, the cover, and the two supports—and rests upon a base of green granite from the Vosges Mountains. The Emperor lies facing the high altar of the church, enclosed in six coffins. Twelve colossal female figures of white Carrara marble, by Pradier, emblem-

atic of Napoleon's victories, turn their sad gaze toward the sarcophagus. The floor of the crypt is paved with colored marble and represents a vast star, overlaid with a wreath of laurel, within which are inscribed the glorious names of Rivoli, Pyramides, Marengo, Austerlitz, Jena, Friedland, Wagram, and Moskowa,—the Emperor's eight most renowned victories. The violet-colored light that falls from the windows of the dome into the recesses of the crypt greatly enhances the solemnity of the scene.

The approach to the crypt is lighted by two large windows of colored glass. These admit a flood of amber light, which bathes the portal with a golden glow. Adjacent to this doorway are two sarcophagi of black and green marble, designed by Visconti, one

containing the ashes of Duroc and the other those of Bertrand,—successively Grand Marshals of the Imperial Palace. These two noble men—faithful to their Emperor alike in sunshine and in storm—form his body-guard even in death, and serve by their presence to cheer the solitude of the tomb. Duroc fell at the battle of Bautzen in 1813, while Bertrand shared with Napoleon the years of captivity at Saint Helena, and later formed one of the commission entrusted with the restoration of his remains to France. Their ashes were interred here on May fifth, 1847,— the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Emperor's death. On that occasion, General Gourgaud eloquently said: "These two men have been chiefly chosen because the relations sustained by them to the Emperor were those of friendship

and confidence. In placing them by the side of his tomb they will be there not as the most illustrious nor as the only devoted and faithful ones under a reign that furnished so many noble sacrifices of every kind, but as the natural representatives of a devotion the purest and most grateful, and of a fidelity most frequently, most directly, and most continuously manifested in good as in ill fortune."

Between these tombs stands the altar of the church, at which solemn high mass for the repose of Napoleon's soul is annually celebrated on December fifteenth,—the anniversary of the restoration of his remains to France.

Above the gateway leading to the crypt are inscribed in letters of gold the following words from Napoleon's will:

JE DÉSIRE QUE MES CENDRES REPOSENT SUR LES BORDS DE LA SEINE AU MILIEU DE CE PEUPLE FRANÇAIS QUE J'AI TANT AIMÉ.[1]

On each side of this entrance stands a colossal bronze statue by Duret,—one bearing the Imperial crown and sceptre, and the other the terrestrial globe and the sword of state. The bronze door is cast from cannon captured at the battle of Austerlitz. Its key-hole forms a Cross of the Legion of Honor, and is surmounted by the letter N. This portal, which is always guarded by an "Invalide," opens upon a platform leading to a flight of twenty-six white marble steps, by which we descend to the pavement of the crypt,—a subterranean chamber whose atmos-

[1] I desire that my ashes may rest on the banks of the Seine, in the midst of that French people whom I have loved so much.

Tomb of Napoleon in the Crypt

Tomb of Napoleon in the Crypt.

PYRAMIDES
MARENGO
AUSTERLITZ
JENA

phere smites the visitor with a chill even in the warmest days of summer. It is open to the dome of the church and is encircled by a gallery paved with marble, the roof of which extends under the floor of the church above and is supported by twelve marble pillars. From the ceiling of this ambulatory depend bronze funeral lamps modelled after those of ancient Pompeii. The walls of the gallery are adorned with ten bas-reliefs of white marble by Simart, whereon are depicted the chief civil events of the Emperor's reign. These are as follow:

THE REFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

THE RESTORATION OF PUBLIC ORDER.

THE PROMULGATION OF THE CODE.

THE SIGNING OF THE CONCORDAT.

THE EXECUTION OF PUBLIC WORKS.

THE PROTECTION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FINANCES.

THE INSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEGION OF HONOR.

These bas-reliefs are accompanied by appropriate inscriptions, taken either from Imperial decrees or from the Emperor's own words.

At intervals among the twelve marble statues that face the sarcophagus are grouped the identical standards sent

by Napoleon from his camp at Elchingen in October, 1805, a few weeks before the battle of Austerlitz. When Paris was entered by the allies in 1814 these flags were carefully hidden, and so escaped capture. On March thirtieth of the same year, fifteen hundred battle-flags—the trophies of the victorious campaigns of Louis XIV. and Napoleon—were burned in the Cour d'Honneur in the Hôtel des Invalides. It was on that occasion that the sword of Frederick the Great, which Napoleon had brought from Potsdam and deposited in the Invalides, was broken in pieces and cast into the Seine lest it should fall into the hands of the Prussians. It is said that the order was three times issued by the Governor before it was obeyed.

Passing along the gallery of the crypt

to a point opposite the entrance, we reach a grating of gilded bronze, which gives access to the Imperial Sanctuary, a small chamber so named because of the Emperor's effects which it contains. No light reaches it save from the attendant's lamp. The walls and ceiling are of black marble, and the floor of marble mosaic. At the back of the Sanctuary stands a white marble statue of Napoleon in his robes of state,—holding in one hand the sceptre and in the other the orb of power. It is from the chisel of Simart, and is of remarkable beauty. As the eye gradually accommodates itself to the dim light the outlines of the Emperor's statue slowly define themselves against the dark background, and the figure looms like a spectre in the surrounding gloom. In the centre of the chamber may be seen, en-

closed in a glass case, the sword worn by Napoleon at the battle of Austerlitz on December second, 1805; the hat worn by him at the battle of Eylau on February eighth, 1807; and the collar, cordon, and star of the Legion of Honor used by him on great occasions of state. These last named insignia were presented to the French Government by Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte in 1843. The gold laurel wreath given by the city of Cherbourg in honor of Napoleon, on the occasion of the restoration of his remains to France, formerly reposed here also. It may now be seen in the Musée de l'Armée in the Hôtel des Invalides.

The thoughtful visitor to this cold and cheerless crypt, whose silence is broken only by the echo of his footfall, must confess to a mingled feeling of

reverence and awe as he looks upon the massive sarcophagus of the great Emperor, the magic of whose name seems to defy even the assaults of time. There, beneath the majestic dome of the Invalides, amid the drooping battle-flags and the sad-visaged "Victories" that surround him and seemingly lament his fall, attended by his faithful friends, Duroc and Bertrand, and guarded by the grim veterans of France —Napoleon sleeps in peace. Dynasties may come and go, republics may rise and fall, but still the memory of the "Little Corporal" will live in the minds of men; and as in the Past so in the years that are to come, the visitor to Paris will reverently repair to that shrine of genius, and fix his wondering gaze upon the sarcophagus that encloses the mortal remains of the

Napoleon at Wagram, July 6th, 1809, by Horace Vernet.

The Emperor at the Height of his Power.

greatest wonder-worker of the modern world.

"Ev'n all mankind to some loved ills incline:
Great men choose greater sins—ambition 's mine."

THE END

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